

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a composite structure, the method comprising:

applying a surfactant solution to a surface of a tool and drying said surfactant solution to form a surfactant-coated surface, wherein said tool comprises composite material;

applying a primer to said surfactant-coated surface of a tool;

applying a coating to the primer;

curing the primer and coating applied to the tool to form a durable coating; and forming the composite structure on the tool; and

removing the composite structure from the tool, said durable coating remaining substantially bound to said tool.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the tool is a metallic material.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the tool is a composite material.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the primer is a powdered primer.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the primer is a nylon powder primer.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the coating is a powdered fluorinated organic compound.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the applying steps comprises electrostatic powder spraying.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the forming step comprises placing the tool in an oven and heating the oven.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of cleaning the surface of the tool with a solvent before applying the primer.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the solvent is an isopropyl alcohol.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of coupling tape to a peripheral portion of the surface before applying the primer.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a composite structure, the method comprising:

cleaning a surface of a tool, the surface having a peripheral portion, wherein said tool comprises composite material;

covering the peripheral portion;

applying a surfactant solution to the uncovered portion of the surface and drying said surfactant solution to form a surfactant-coated uncovered surface;

applying a primer to the surfactant-coated uncovered portion of the surface;

applying a coating to the primer;

curing the primer and coating applied to the tool to form a durable coating on said tool; and

forming the composite structure on the tool; and

removing the composite structure from the tool, said durable coating remaining substantially bound to said tool.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 13 wherein the tool is comprises a steel mold for forming composite structures.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the tool is a composite mold for forming composite structures.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the primer is a powdered primer.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the primer is a nylon powder primer.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the coating is a powdered fluorinated organic compound.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 13 wherein at least one of the applying steps comprises electrostatic powder spraying.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the forming step comprises placing the tool in an oven and heating the oven to at least 450 degrees Fahrenheit.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the cleaning step comprises applying a solvent to the surface of the tool.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 21 wherein the solvent is an isopropyl alcohol.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 13 wherein the covering step comprises coupling masking tape to the peripheral portion of the surface.

24. (Canceled)